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# MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1943 No. 36

H.E. LORD LINLITHGOW

## Flushed with Victory

**The** labour and the sweat, and the sacrifices of nearly three years of campaigning in North Africa have now been crowned with a magnificent and final victory. The African continent has been cleansed, and great forces of the enemy have been captured or utterly destroyed. The great strategic highway, the Mediterranean, has been opened, and along the length of its southern littoral stand division upon division of French, American, British, Dominion, and Indian troops all flushed with victory, all brothers-in-arms, whose mutual confidence has been tried in the test of battle, all eager for the next move forward, and filled with an implacable resolve to destroy, root and branch, the foul growth of Nazism that has cast its deadly shade, over the length and breadth of continental Europe

**We** shall rejoice that our famous Fourth Indian Division was in at the kill. But there are many troops not now in Tunisia, who won fame in Africa in 1940, 1941 and 1942, and it would be ingratitude to forget the part that Indian troops played in Field Marshal Wavell's great campaigns, and in General Auchinleck's splendid last stand that saved Egypt. It has been the joint endeavour of all the troops engaged, since the beginning of the African campaign, that has made possible the final victory, which we are now to celebrate

H.E. LORD LINLITHGOW, in a broadcast
from Delhi, on May 14

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# THE GERMAN WAY

A soldier returned to Berlin from the Russian front with a slight wound and went to a hospital for treatment. He found two doors, one marked "Officers" and the other "Troops." He went in the door marked "Troops" and found two more doors, one marked "Seriously Wounded" and the other marked "Slightly Wounded." He went in the door marked "Slightly Wounded" and found two more doors, one marked "Party Members" and the other "Non-Party Members." He went through the door marked "Non-Party Members" and found himself in the street again.

When the soldier returned home a friend asked him what the hospital had done for him. He replied: "Nothing, but the organization was perfect."

—*Newsweek*, Dayton, Ohio.

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**The Position in Russia: Preparation for Big Battles.** *Reuter's* Special Correspondent in Moscow reports that Red Army forces in preparation for big battles ahead have smashed their way across the Donetz and captured important positions near Lisichansk. This is the first big flare-up on the Ukraine since the Spring, and the Russians have, after fierce fighting, succeeded in repulsing the Germans. After gaining a foothold on the German side of the Donetz, the Russians attacked two strategically important hills, and it is likely that another ding-dong struggle will develop here. The Russians have captured and consolidated the bridgehead across the Donetz at a point which is stated to be excellent for starting an offensive against the Don Basin industrial region. After a few days of comparative lull, fierce fighting has started again in the Kuban, but as yet, no large-scale battles are in progress. Comparatively small forces are being used both by the Germans and the Russians in attempts to gain certain heights, roads and supply bases. The Kuban bridgehead is the only relic of the great gains made by the Germans in the Caucasus in the summer offensive of last year. They want to cling to this as long as possible. They have managed to build, by taking advantage of the difficult terrain, a solid line of fortifications stretching between Novorossisk and Krymskyaya and the Kuban river. They are having the feeling that a rapid Russian advance will be deterred by the extensively flooded area, but General MASLENMIHOV's troops have broken the German defence line and Krymskyaya is already in Russian hands. One Soviet thrust has made good progress towards the northern defences of Novorossisk and the other has captured some positions commanding the southern suburbs of the city.

* * *

**Kuban and the Crimea: German Fear and Russian Objective.** The importance of the Kuban bridgehead lies in the fact that it can be used as a spring-board by the Germans for another attack on the Caucasus, and that is why the Germans are very much perturbed at the prospect of losing it and exposing their whole position at the southern end of their main front to the Russian attack. It may be pointed out that the Crimea is not far beyond the Taman peninsula, and it is there the Germans have some of their main supply depots for their southern sector. The Germans want to protect their vital base and the Russians want to neutralise the Crimea before the great summer offensive begins.

The other sector in which there has been some activity is the Leningrad front. During the last winter, the Russians had

(*Continued on page 6*)

# TUNISIA DAY

☆

General ALEXANDER

TO-DAY (May 21st), the people of India are celebrating the magnificent victory achieved by the United Nations in Tunisia. There have been a number of successes at which India has rejoiced, but nothing like this has ever happened before—a victory so complete and full in a vital theatre of war, a victory in which Indian troops have taken a very conspicuous part and brought great credit and renown to the land of their birth. His Excellency the Viceroy said in his broadcast on Friday last, " We shall rejoice that our famous Fourth Indian Division was in at the kill." And it was troops of this Division, it may be noted, that bagged General von Arnim, the Commander-in-Chief of the Axis forces in Africa. His Excellency also recalled the part played by other Indian troops which are not now in Tunisia, but which took part in the great campaigns of Field Marshal Wavell and the splendid last stand of General Auchinleck that saved Egypt. Our troops won great fame in 1940, 1941 and 1942.

ON this Tunisia Day, the peoples of India, whatever their caste, creed, colour, civilisation or culture may be, will recall the achievements of Indian troops and feel immensely proud that it has been given to these troops to share in the great victory, which definitely spells the doom of the Axis in Europe.

THERE is no doubt that Tunisia represents a giant stride in the Allied march towards final victory. North Africa is now a spring-board for an attack on Hitler's *Festung Europa*, and the Mediterranean, the great strategic highway, has been opened, making it easier for Allied aid to reach Russia in a much shorter time. The distance between Gibralter and Suez is about 1,800 miles, while the way to Suez round the Cape of Good Hope is about 12,000 miles. The gain to the United Nations by this shorter supply route to Russia and the Far East is obvious. Much valuable time is gained, and great pressure on shipping relieved.

TUNISIA marks the end of the three years' war in Africa, or to be exact, 2 years 11 months and 2 days. Italy entered the war on June 10, 1940, a week after the evacuation of Dunkirk, and attacked British and French possessions in the Mediterranean and North Africa. The African war ended officially on 12th May 1943 after armed resistance of the Axis forces was stopped—there was no Dunkirk there, only Stalingrad.

DURING this three-year period Italy's dream of an African Empire materialised, and then melted into nothing. Mussolini boasted that the Mediterranean was an Italian lake, but his frantic preparations now to save Sicily, Sardinia, and Italy itself from the offensive of the United Nations show how hollow his boast was.

SIMILAR were the boasts of Hitler and his propaganda department with regard to the North African war in general and the Tunisian campaign in particular. If Mussolini called the Mediterranean an Italian lake, they seemed at one time to consider North Africa as part of the Reich—so confident and certain they were of success. When they won, it was success; when they lost, it was strategy—success or failure, everything, they claimed, went according to their plan. But in Tunisia, they couldn't pretend, in spite of their best efforts, that they lost the battle according to plan. Lord Haw Haw is, of course, trying to put on a good face over the whole affair. In a broadcast from Berlin on May 12/13, he said, "In North Africa, the fight still continues despite the fall of Tunis and Bizerta . . . In modern as in ancient war, the spirit with which the troops fight is the most important thing." So it has come to that at last!

REFERRING to the Axis defeat itself, Lord Haw Haw says, "It may be a blow on the chin, or the forehead, or the neck. I should think the right analysis would be to say that the German boxer has received a sock of no great power, somewhere below the knee. At any rate, the blow is of no great importance." But in the same broadcast he claims that "the defences of southern Europe have been perfected against any attempt of a landing of an expeditionary force." If the blow was of no great importance, why should Hitler get worried and Mussolini perturbed at the prospects of an invasion?

BUT the significance of the Tunisian victory is even much deeper. The reopening of the Mediterranean might affect the Far Eastern strategy of the United Nations in this way. Sicily and Sardinia may be conquered by the Allied forces, the security of the Mediterranean convoys would be increased, greater opportunity would be afforded for destroying the Italian naval bases, and, with the Italian fleet out of the picture, there is greater scope for transferring the British Mediterranean fleet to the Far East. The strengthening of the Allied position in the Middle East will help in a more rapid and efficient distribution of the oil resources of Iraq and Iran and enable supplies for Russia to be delivered at the Persian Gulf ports with far less expenditure of tonnage than required at present.

WHEN we celebrate Tunisia Day to-day, our mind seeks to visualise the global strategy of the United Nations and the noose that is slowly tightening round the neck of the Axis, and we pay our homage to the forces of the United Nations under the great command of Generals Eisenhower and Alexander. The United States General, in paying a great tribute to General Alexander's master stroke of strategy, said that the final blow in North Africa was struck by a clever move by which the bulk of the Axis troops were held on the Eighth Army Front, while the First Army delivered a knock-out punch.

IT is of interest to note in this connection that 90 per cent of the First Army and 76 per cent of the Eighth Army are from Britain, and that the percentage of British casualties in the Eighth Army which has borne the brunt of the fighting, is 87. These figures expose the baselessness of the Axis propaganda that the bulk of the troops in the African front-line of battle, which were suffering the heaviest casualties, belonged to nationalities other than the British.

BUT the victory itself belongs to the United Nations—to the Great Britain, to United States, to Fighting France, to India, and to all the other nations that are determined to bring the Axis down to the boards. Tunisia is a knock-out punch for the Axis so far as Africa is concerned; but it is an indication of who will get the honours of the final round and the verdict for the whole fight.

*A VIEW OF BIZERTA.*

## RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 3)

considerably improved the position of Leningrad and made it an even stronger bastion. The capture of Veliki Luki got them very near the main line trunk railway, which is the spinal column of the German communications stretching from the northern sector to the Ukraine in the south. It is likely that there would be some developments on the Leningrad sector in the near future, because there have been bombing raids on Rostock and Stettin by the Royal Air Force and air raids on East Russia by the Russian Air Force, as well some mine-laying sorties in the Baltic Sea.

* * * *

**Eve of Summer Offensive: Red Army Ready.** We have referred to the fact that there has been recent activity only in the two extremities of the Russian front. This, according to some military commentators, is an indication that the bigger events to come are likely to fall somewhere round about half-way between these two opposite ends. Where is this likely to be? It is possible that somewhere near Kursk, where the northern and southern part of the whole front pivots, a great offensive may start. At this point and further below on the northern Donetz, heavy armoured concentrations on either side are reported. But at whatever point the summer campaign of the Germans may flare up, one thing is certain: it will not take the Red Army by surprise. On the other hand, there seems to be a strong probability that the initiative may be taken by the Russians themselves, not on one sector, but, as they have done in the past, all along the entire front. "The time is near" said M. STALIN three weeks ago in his May Day speech, "when the Red Army, together with the army of our Allies, will break the spine of the Fascist beast." M. STALIN must have had the cumulative Allied aid to Russia and the joint operations against HITLER in mind when he said this. The opening of a great phase, perhaps the final phase, in the Russian war is about to take place, and everything points to the fact that the Germans are not going to have an easy time.

*SOCIABLE SAIDAPET.*

# Problem of Food Supply

*By* V. C. SUNDARA RAJAN

THE problem of food supply in this province has come to be wrongly regarded in certain quarters as somewhat acute and as one which must be dealt with, with a certain amount of apprehension. But when we go into the facts and examine them carefully it will be found that we can feel optimistic and even confident about the future, provided each one of us co-operates with the Government in this matter.

This province used to export as well as import rice but was never seriously deficit because it produced nearly 93 per cent of its requirements of rice and considerable quantities of other food-grains. In view of the cessation of imports from Burma and other places on which this province used to rely and the restricted cultivation in the year 1942–43 owing to unfavourable monsoons, the export of rice from this province to Travancore, Cochin and Ceylon which was allowed till recently, has now been stopped. Practically the entire production is available for consumption in this province. Such deficit as there will be, will be partly made good by the new scheme of rough polishing of rice and to some extent by a limited import quota under the Government of India "Procurement Scheme." Under this scheme arrangements have been made to import considerable quantities of millets to meet the shortage of millets in the current year owing to unfavourable monsoons. On the whole there is no reason to think that this province will be seriously short of any of the essential food-grains in the current year.

## INCREASED AND IMPROVED PRODUCTION

In order, however, to take no risks and to meet any possible increase in consumption the "Grow More Food" campaign has been started and it is now in full swing, and already considerable areas have been brought under cultivation of foodstuffs of all varieties of which there might be shortage. Sustained efforts are being made not only to extend the areas under cultivation but to carry on intensive cultivation by introducing better methods and better strains of grains to make crops rich and plentiful. In order to encourage and give a fillip to this scheme Government have announced several concessions. Vacant sites in villages and towns, Government and private compounds, lands adjoining roads and railways, and even flower gardens are being increasingly brought under cultivation for production of foodstuffs. But there is a good deal more that both town dwellers and villagers can do in this direction.

Irrigation facilities of a far reaching character have been granted to ryots to encourage the cultivation of these new areas. To mention a few of these schemes, water is being supplied from the Periyar lake for raising a summer ragi crop on about 7,500 acres in the Cumbum valley in the Madura district. Lands in both compact and non-compact areas in Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts are being leased or assigned outright for growing food-crops and irrigation facilities are afforded to these areas from the Cauvery-Mettur project. In the Tanjore district alone there are

about 22,000 acres available for this purpose. A large diversion channel is being excavated on the right side of the existing Rameswaram channel which will irrigate some thousands of acres more in the East Godavari district.

In order to provide the best possible irrigation facilities in proprietary estates and villages, Government have undertaken to repair and improve the sources of irrigation. They have also set apart about 20 lakhs of rupees this year for giving takkavi loans to ryots in zamindari areas to assist them in their agricultural operations.

Besides all this, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is carrying on several schemes for increasing the production of food crops generally, for the preservation of fruits and for improving and increasing the supply of milk and other dairy products. So much for increased and improved production.

## DISTRIBUTION

On the side of distribution Government are determined to do all they can to see that the distribution of all foodstuffs is made on a fair and equitable basis. Private persons have been prohibited from moving rice and certain other foodstuffs from district to district. Government have, however, arranged to send excess stocks from surplus districts to the deficit districts and regular monthly quotas have been fixed. Purchases are made by the Grains Purchasing Officers and distribution is carried out under control of Collectors through licensed wholesale and approved retail dealers.

In spite of reasonably plentiful supplies, there may, of course, be temporary local shortages owing to difficulties and delays in transport. There might also be difficulties due to ryots holding on their stocks hoping for better prices.

## HOARDING

Shortages might also arise by reason of businessmen hoarding foodstuffs. The Foodgrains Control Order gives certain powers which can be used against merchants who hoard or profiteer. Severe penalties have now been imposed by Government and we may confidently hope that the new penalty of confiscation in conjunction with the already existing penalties of imprisonment and fine will have a salutary effect upon these unsocial elements.

The consumer hoarders are a menace to the public, particularly to the poorer classes. It is due to their panic buying that working margins and working balances easily disappear and retail shops come to the verge of closing. Their fear and nervousness gives an opportunity to unscrupulous merchants to profiteer. In the process of building up their domestic hoards they deprive the poorer classes from buying their daily needs from out of the pittance they earn from day to day. It is those consumers who lay stocks for months ahead that are responsible for nearly all temporary shortages. It is not generally realized that hoarding by consumers is an important factor in creating shortage. No Government by itself can defeat the hoarders, the profiteers and the blackmarkets. We have a duty to co-operate and assist the Government in this matter and there is a great deal that each one of the citizens can do in combating these anti-social acts. If hoarding is stopped the question of shortage can be solved to a very great extent.

## AUSTERE STANDARDS OF LIVING

There is yet another way in which every one of us can ease the situation to a very large extent. We must take to more and more austere standards of living. We can help by eating less of those commodities of which there is a shortage and consuming more and more of what is locally available. For example, if rice is in deficit, people can change their diet slightly by taking a little less of rice and eating a little more vegetables, fruits and greens which incidentally would do them a lot of good in other ways. So, while surplus districts will doubtless surrender their excess quotas to the deficit districts a great obligation rests upon the people in the deficit districts to make the most of their inadequate resources. It is thus by public co-operation can the food-supply problem be solved satisfactorily.

## ROLE OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Co-operative Societies are playing a remarkable part in the matter of financing, producing and distributing food supplies throughout this province. On the side of financing and producing, about 10,000 village credit societies in this province with a membership of over 6½ lakhs have advanced more than a crore and 60 lakhs of rupees to their members in the year 1941–42 alone. They are helping the growers to get proper prices for their produce and are eliminating the enormous profits which unscrupulous middlemen usually make. On the side of distribution they act as fair-price-shops in many important urban areas. At present there are about 800 societies throughout this province distributing foodstuffs and other controlled articles to members as well as non-members.

## WHY HIGH PRICES?

There is only one other matter to be dealt with and that is the question of high prices. We find that many of the foodstuffs have gone up by two or more times their pre-war levels. One might very well ask why such high prices if there is no shortage? There are obviously a number of factors which contribute to this unfortunate position. Partly it is due to the increased cost of production, partly to the higher cost of transport and partly perhaps to temporary shortgage of supplies. All these can but account for a percentage of the rise.

But the main reason is this. Owing to large payments by Government for war supplies and other defence expenses the total amount of money in circulation in this country has enormously increased. This accounts for the boom in the general level of prices of all commodities. But here again, there is a good deal that the people themselves could do. If only we will all co-operate with the Government by saving as much money as possible from out of our incomes, by spending the barest possible minimum and that too, on essentials and invest the balance in Defence Loans the general price level of all commodities and with it the price of foodstuffs is bound to come down considerably. Personal economy on our part will not only place the individual in the post-war world on a sound basis but will help to finance the war to-day. And above all it can bring the price level of foodstuffs within the easier reach of the poorer classes. I therefore appeal to each one of you to save, not only for your own sake but for the sake of the poor, for the sake of our country and above all for the sake of winning this war.

*—A talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras.*

# Air Power in War

(*By* AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR CHARLES PORTAL)

[*Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Portal, G.C.B., D.S.O. and Bar M.C., Chief of the Air Staff, was born in Berkshire, England, in 1893. He received his education at Winchester and Oxford. In 1914, Sir Charles joined the Royal Engineers as a Despatch Rider. In 1915, he became an Observer in the Royal Flying Corps and before the end of the war had received the M.C. and the D.S.O. with Bar. In 1935, he became an Instructor at the Imperial Defence College and in March of 1940, he became Commander-in-Chief, Bomber Command, soon after was appointed Chief of Air Staff.*]

THE conquest of the air has revolutionized the art of war. It has changed the whole way of life of every combatant people.

These facts were widely recognized before the outbreak of the present war. Most of the countries of Europe, feeling themselves threatened by the ever-more aggressive attitude of Nazi Germany in the late 1930's, organized air-raid defence measures on a large scale.

Those responsible for the equipment and conduct of the armed forces of a great state must necessarily move with caution, for complete defeat may be the dreadful price of a mistake. That is why the application of newly discovered weapons is almost invariably slower than the potentiality of those weapons would warrant. There are dangers in technical conservatism as well as in experimentation, and victory may reward that nation which most rapidly adapts the theory and practice of its armed forces to the use of some crucial new weapon.

Germany gained devastating successes at the beginning of the present war, successes which brought her within an ace of final victory, before effective resistance could be organized. That she made a fuller use of the air weapon than any of her opponents was one of the main secrets of her success.

## BEFORE THE WAR

Owing to her slowness to re-arm, Great Britain began the war against Nazi Germany in an air inferiority of one to four. Not only could the Germans put four aircraft into the sky for every one which could be flown by the Royal Air Force, but the Royal Air Force were also compelled to continue using large numbers of aircraft which were already obsolescent.

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR CHARLES PORTAL

In the months preceding the war the most strenuous efforts had been made to provide us with modern aircraft. These efforts, as all the world knows, bore fruit just in time to turn the tide at a later stage in the war, but at first the Royal Air Force possessed only a fraction of the resources required to guarantee the security of Great Britain.

On the one hand, our force of fighter aircraft was inadequate for the air defence of the most vital objectives in Britain, including London, the largest and most vulnerable target for air attack in the world. On the other hand, we possessed a totally inadequate striking force of bombers with which to hit back at the enemy.

It is important to emphasize these facts to-day, not in order to revive dead controversies, but to explain the conditions under which the Royal Air Force has to work in the past and under which to a considerable extent it still works. Our air resources have never approached our requirements and we have, therefore, had to decide how best to distribute what we have.

Naturally, the first need has been to defend our base. Not only was the security of this country vital if the war is to be continued in Europe at all, but it was essential to ensure that production was not unduly interrupted in what is one of the main sources of supply of armaments to the United Nations throughout the world.

We have therefore had to concentrate on the building up of our fighter force and of Coastal Command, which assists the Navy in the vital work of keeping open the sea lanes to this country. Then, after the entry of Italy into the war, we had to build up strong forces in the Middle East to prevent the enemy overrunning Egypt and securing access to all the Middle Eastern countries and the Indian Ocean, which form one of the main bastions in the defence of our Empire.

**SITUATION IMPROVES**

We could not be strong everywhere. All we could do at first was to ensure that we were strong at the essential points and we had to accept that this could only be achieved at the expense of weakness elsewhere. Our relative weakness was accentuated by the strategical advantage possessed by the enemy with his central position and short lines of communication.

As a result we have met with many grave reverses which have given rise to severe criticisms of the Royal Air Force. To our great regret we have been unable to provide the air forces required in all places throughout the world and have thereby exposed land and sea forces to fighting under the disadvantage of inadequate air assistance.

Unfortunately this has been inevitable. If we had dispersed our resources more than we have done we should have been weak everywhere and we should probably by now have lost the war.

I am glad to say that the situation is now quickly improving. On the one hand, Germany has undertaken a great new campaign against Russia involving the dispersal of her air resources over a very large area and the addition of the powerful Soviet Air Force to the strength of the United Nations.

On the other hand, large numbers of aircraft which have for some time been flowing to the Royal Air Force from the American factories are now making their weight felt. These factors, coupled with our own efforts, are bringing us rapidly to the time when the United Nations will have decisive air superiority over the Axis in all parts of the world.

The importance of air superiority in battle was realized by many before the war. Our experience has shown it clearly for all to see. In a battle between two otherwise equal opponents, it is the side with air superiority that will win. This is as true for land and sea battles as it is for purely aerial ones.

Finally, air superiority plays an essential part in the destruction of the enemy's will to make war, which is the final aim of our strategy. The achievement of general air superiority over the enemy must therefore be one of our cardinal aims.

**REQUIREMENTS IN INDIA**

The entry of Japan into the war created vast new requirements in India and the Far East; the increasing threat to our positions in the Middle East compelled us to increase our forces there considerably; the intensification of the U-boat war against our shipping has meant that an increasingly large proportion of our resources has had to be devoted to reconnaissance and to the hunting down of submarines.

As the range of our aircraft increases the area of sea which they can patrol increases still more, so that it is necessary to employ a far larger number of aircraft to cover it completely. Moreover, experience of this war has shown that Naval forces can rarely operate in narrow seas within the range of powerful shorebased air striking forces, so that more and more of the work previously done by the Navy is now being taken over by the Royal Air Force. In this sense more and more seas are becoming "narrow seas;" the Mediterranean as a whole is rapidly coming into this category.

Another need created by the present war has been for long range aircraft for transport purposes. Here the enemy had the advantage of a large stock of obsolete bombers and these he used with great effect to transport supplies and men. Because we re-armed later than the enemy we had no such stock of obsolescent aircraft available; we have had to make do with an inadequate number of transports supplemented where necessary by operational aircraft diverted from their proper role. It will be a long time before we have all the transport aircraft that we need.

The development of air-borne forces has meant that much work has also now to be done in adapting aircraft for the release of parachutists and for the towing of gliders. The building of gliders and the training of their pilots detract from the resources which would otherwise be available for operating powered aircraft.

**BASIC AIRCRAFT**

It is our constant endeavour to increase the adaptability of the basic types of aircraft to enable them to undertake efficiently the many

calls that are now made. A heavy bomber can be used as a heavy transport and communications aircraft, as a long distance aircraft for sea reconnaissance, as a mine-layer, as an ambulance, etc. What is basically a fighter can be used also for high altitude reconnaissance, tactical reconnaissance with the Army, low-level bombing and cannon fire attacks on ships and land targets. The very adaptability of aircraft means that the demand for them must go on increasing and that we can never have all that we need.

The Royal Air Force has been fortunate in having behind it great productive resources. The British aircraft industry had been growing fast before the war and has made great strides since, until it has become directly or indirectly the greatest single employer of labour in the whole country.

For a long time it had to give particular attention to the production of modern fighters, which alone could secure our base against enemy air attack. Thanks to the makers of Hurricanes and Spitfires, the Royal Air Force was able to achieve a decisive victory in the Battle of Britain in 1940. Fighters are still required in very large numbers, but it is now possible to give greater attention to the production of heavy bombers, and large numbers of four-engined heavy bombers are being produced every month.

### AMERICAN ASSISTANCE

The Royal Air Force could never have become what it is to-day without American assistance on a large scale. For some time Lockheed Hudson medium bombers have been providing much of the reconnaissance over the sea carried out by Coastal Command. American Curtiss fighters and Douglas and Glenn Martin bombers have played an essential part in air operations in the Middle East.

The reinforcement of the Royal Air Force with these and other types of aircraft was already taking place on a large scale before America entered the war. With the enormously increased scale of production that has become possible now that she is in, and with the aid of the American crews and ground personnel now taking their place in the fight beside those drawn from all parts of the world who have hitherto manned the air units of the United Nations, we can hope to build up combined forces far greater than those which the Royal Air Force could have dreamed of achieving alone.

The demands for air forces for defensive purposes are numerous and compelling; as I have explained many of these are essential and have to be met. Nevertheless, one of the soundest rules in war is to allot the minimum for defence in order to keep the maximum for attack. It should soon be possible to say that the minimum necessary for defence has been provided and we can then concentrate our efforts on building up the mighty striking force which alone can pave the way to victory.

The large scale bomber offensive against Germany has been in all our minds since the beginning of the war. Until recently our bomber force has been a comparatively small one. Even so, it has been able to deal many heavy blows at ports and centres of German industry and communications. It has also been largely instrumental in compelling the Germans to maintain in the West a considerable force of long-range bombers and well over one-third of their fighter force at a time when she could ill-spare them from the Eastern front.

It has thus made an important contribution to maintaining the strategical position of the United Nations. However, what they have achieved is as nothing compared with what they are now beginning to achieve and what, with the help of the American bomber force destined for this country, they soon will achieve.

Now that the Royal Air Force is beginning to build up a large force of bombers capable of carrying a really heavy load, it is possible to develop a new technique of delivering highly concentrated and destructive raids on vital enemy targets. The results so far have been most successful.

These enormous raids have brought home to the people of Germany, perhaps for the first time, their vulnerability to air attack. The effects must have extended far beyond the immediate neighbourhood of the Rhineland. No town in western Germany can now consider itself safe.

The time is not very far off when the British and American bomber squadrons in England will be able to destroy the industry and power of Germany at a rate which outstrips repair. When that time comes, will the average German long resist the conclusion that the war is no longer profitable and the Fuehrer no longer worth following?

—*Flying News.*

## The Latest Model

"Ha! ha!" laughed the recruit. "You can't fool me. I know they've got potato-peeling machines in this army."

"Yes, smart chap," replied the sergeant, "and you're the latest model!"

# General Alexander: A Sketch

*By* IAN HAY

"AT midnight on Sunday, June 2, Major-General Alexander and a senior naval officer (Captain W. E. Tennant, R.N.) made a final tour of the beaches and the harbour in a motor-boat, and, being satisfied that no British troops were left on shore, they themselves left for England."

The above is the closing sentence of the official dispatch describing the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940. That was probably the first time that most people heard of the man whose name is ringing round the world at this moment and about whom everybody is asking for further information.

### A TROUBLE-SHOOTER

What manner of man is he, this paladin? What is his record? What is he like personally?

One fact about him leaps to the eye. He is a man who is dependable in a crisis—a man in fact who is always being sent for at the worst moment to put things right. He is what the Americans call a trouble-shooter. " 'Alex' is here and everything is going to be all right now." That is the feeling which he has inspired time and again in this war.

### SENT TO BURMA

Consider his record since 1940. He was chosen by Lord Gort, as we have already noted, to stay behind and supervise the final clearance of the Dunkirk beaches. His next trouble-shooting assignment was early in 1942, when he was sent out in hot haste to Burma, where British troops, ill-equipped and outnumbered, were being hard pressed by the Japanese intent upon the invasion of India. India was not invaded. Then came a similar summons to North Africa in the summer of 1942. The Army of the Nile under General Auchinleck had been pushed back by Rommel for a second time with heavy losses right within the Egyptian border, and both Alexandria and Cairo were threatened.

### ROMMEL CHASED

General Alexander was created Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East and bidden to stabilize the situation. He did more than that; under his direction the Army of the Nile was reconstituted as the Eighth Army under a new commander, General Montgomery; and on October 23, he launched a counter-attack upon Rommel which never let up until the occupation of Tripoli and the extinction of the Italian empire.

So we see that "Alex" is not merely a trouble-shooter, he is an organizer of victory. He is also a diplomatist of the first water. When towards the end of 1942 an American Expeditionary Force and the British First Army landed in Algeria and Casablanca, a somewhat delicate problem arose. Were the forces of the United Nations to act independently or conjointly? If conjointly, who was to be in supreme command—General Eisenhower or General Alexander?

General Eisenhower was chosen. It may have been a disappointment to Alexander to miss the final distinction, but he is eminently a soldier who sets a cause over personal prize. So he effaced himself and set to work upon his allotted duty, with the triumphant result which to-day we celebrate.

Each day the official report of the United Nations has appeared under General Eisenhower's name, but though the voice is the voice of Eisenhower, the hand in the main has been the hand of Alexander, and Eisenhower, like the shrewd and generous soldier that he is, has been the first to acknowledge the fact.

### A BORN LEADER

Of his personal character it may be stated that, besides inspiring complete confidence in those about him, he has complete confidence in himself. As a soldier he believes in his star, follows it without wavering. That means that he is a born leader, for soldiers will always follow a man who obviously knows where he is going. That is the true secret of his success.

He is essentially a fit man. When he commanded the Second Battalion of the Irish Guards he did everything that the Battalion did. On long route march he seldom used his horse. He not only marched at the head of his men, it was his habit occasionally to fall out to the side of the road and wait until the column had marched past him. Then he would double up from the rear, pass them all and take his place at their head again.

### HATES FUSS

He is, among other things, an artist of distinction. Like the Prime Minister, he devotes much of his spare time to painting; his military field sketches are a model for their kind. He hates fuss and feathers.

WINK COMMANDER

"What is that pretty daughter of yours doing these days, Entwhistle?"

"By all accounts, Abbott, she's Wink Commander in the WAAFS!"

# Muslims Help the Red Army

*By* ALEXANDER SHABANOV

SINCE the beginning of this patriotic war of the Soviet people against German Fascism, Muslims have been taking active part in the defence of the country against the treacherous enemy. Both in the ranks of the Red Army and on the home front they are devoting all their efforts, together with those of the entire Soviet people, to the cause of victory over the hordes of Hitler, the hated enemy of all Muslims.

After the appeal to all Muslims, made at the conference of the representatives of clergy and learned men in Ufa on May 15, 1942, it became clear to every Muslim that Hitlerism has nothing in common with his creed. On the contrary, it is the most rabid and implacable enemy of all Muslims. Murder of defenceless women, aged persons and children, rapine, devastation of villages and cities, unheard of outrages against the religious sentiment of the faithful—that is what Fascism has brought to regions of the Soviet Union temporarily under its sway.

### MUFTI'S MESSAGE

At the end of February, 1943, Mufti Rasulev Habdrakhman, President of the Central Muslim Ecclesiastical Board, addressed a new message to all Muslims living in the U.S.S.R.: "Dear brother Muslims! Greetings on behalf of the Central Ecclesiastical Board. Our children and kinsfolk are valiantly fighting against the enemy at the front. It is the duty of all of us remaining in the rear to help them in every way." (The Mufti personally contributed 50,000 roubles for the construction of a tank column.) "It is your duty, you faithful Muslims, also to make contributions, as much as you can afford, to build arms for the Red Army."

This message was read in the mosques and at Muslim meetings. The faithful warmly responded. They were further inspired in their effort by a message of thanks sent by Joseph Stalin to Rasulev Habdrakhman for his contribution.

All this was told me by the ninth Mufti, Rasulev Habdrakhman, during my interview on April 16 in his study in the Central Ecclesiastical Board at Ufa.

### HELP FROM ALL PARTS

Here reports come about the funds collected by Muslims in various towns and villages of the Soviet Union. In Ufa, Rasulev Habdrakhman formed a special committee to collect funds for the construction of a tank column. During a brief period collections among Muslims here yielded a sum sufficient for the construction of several tanks. In Kazan contributions by Muslims aggregated 100,000 roubles. Mulla Hamsutdinov Gafar, representative of the Central Ecclesiastical Board at Semipalatinsk, reported considerable contributions in cash and presents for the Red Army in Kazakhstan. Muslims of Salekh, a village in Bashkir, gave 21,600 roubles. Muslims of the village of Ermei sent 1,800 roubles.

"I think," said Rasulev Habdrakhman, "that the contributions of the faithful for the construction of tanks will total at least a million roubles."

Besides cash, Muslims contributed many articles and agricultural produce for the Red Army. Muslims of one of the collective farms, Zhalshi, in the Taran district of the Kustana region, contributed 100 pounds of wheat to the Red Army Fund.

"Collections of funds, articles and produce still continue. We will petition the Government to accept these contributions," said Rasulev Habdrakhman, "despite the fact that the Soviet Government, on April 7, requested the population and organizations to cease sending contributions to the Red Army Fund in view of the forthcoming war loan. Faithful Muslims have been and remain loyal to their country. The Koran teaches the faithful to 'fight on God's road against all who fight you, because God does not love the unjust. Kill your enemies wherever you find them; drive them from where they have driven you. God will give you relief. He is with the staunch in battle. He will not leave your feats unrewarded!'"

Fighting with arms at the front, working with will in factories and on farms, Muslims fervently pray to Allah for the Red Army's victory over the wicked and hated enemy—Hitlerism.

# Turkey and Tunisia Campaign

*By* LEONARD KIRSCHEN

THE Allied process of liquidation in North Africa is being followed with the greatest interest in Turkey. The recent visit of a Turkish military mission to the British Eighth Army underlines the importance attached to the Tunisian campaign. General Salih Urmutak, the head of the military delegation, knows the terrain well, having served his apprenticeship in soldiery on the sands of the North African deserts. He is also one

of the two Turkish commanders (the other being General Kazim Orbay) who will lead the Turkish armies in the field should Turkey enter the war.

Previously the Mediterranean position interested Turkey from the point of view of self-defence and self-preservation. The danger to Turkey was then not only of a military nature, but, when that had passed, economic too. This danger has now also passed. Turkey's new interest is entirely political.

### WITH ITALY BE THE TARGET?

Speculation grows as to where Allied invasion will take place. The majority think that Italy will be the target. Hitler's " Fortress of Europe " is also open at the two extremities of the Mediterranean, where there are two neutral bridgeheads: Portugal and Turkey. Two years ago it was the Allies who were wondering whether Hitler had any designs on these two countries; now it is Hitler who is worried. There is, however, a slight difference. The Allies were uncertain two years ago whether Hitler would care to overrun an unwilling Turkey, whereas to-day Hitler is afraid that a willing Turkey may perhaps join the Allies as an active military partner. This uncertainty on Germany's part has led to febrile political activity which takes all sorts of curious forms. Among them is the usual peace offensive, although this time we have a derivative of the usual major peace offensive coming from the leading Axis powers, for this time we have had minor ones coming from the Balkan satellites. Even these minor peace offensives have not taken the form of a solitary undertaking but of individual feeble feelers from official and unofficial emissaries.

It would be wrong to think, now that we know the interdependence which binds all the Axis countries together, and especially the smaller ones to the big bosses, that these small countries can think or act on their own. No one here believes that the smaller Balkan States will be able, even in the distant future of the war, to free themselves from the obligations they have undertaken towards the Axis leaders and to make a separate peace of their own. There is quite another motive behind these comings and goings; for, if the German Police at the Bulgarian-Turkish frontier prevent travellers from taking with them uncensored letters, they are not likely to allow the passage to and fro of people acting against their own interests. No; there is something else behind all this.

In the first place, it may be a political and strategical smokescreen to give an illusion of weakness and thus invite the Allies to invade the European continent at a point where the Germans are likely to be ready and expect them. Then there is the possibility that by sending people to and from the Balkans to Turkey, they might be able to find out what Turkey intends to do. What is more, by throwing out a formula of Balkan solidarity much cherished in Turkish political and diplomatic circles, the Axis is perhaps thinking of neutralizing Turkey for the time being, by giving her something to busy herself with.

### THE BALKAN STATES

There may be honest men in the Balkans who are sincerely hoping for a future Balkan co-operation in which Turkey as the strongest remaining nation of the Balkan group is intended to play an important part, but as long as these countries continue to serve the Axis cause, it will be impossible for these men to take action unless it is to overthrow their own Governments first. Turkey feels that she cannot negotiate with regimes which after the war will have to answer a series of accusations before the tribunals of their own peoples and of the United Nations.

Consequently these feelers obtain no results. But they help to give Turks a picture of the indecision within the Axis camp. When Germany was strong and Italy was still in a position to boast, there were no emissaries or peace offers of humble nature such as there are to-day. Sincere or insincere—most probably insincere—these peace feelers do nothing but tell the Turks that something is wrong in Europe. And indeed something is wrong.

As the time for invasion of the European continent draws near, heralding the beginning of the real end, Turkey must begin to think of her future. That is why I said at the beginning that Turkey is now interested in the political consequences of the future as the war develops.

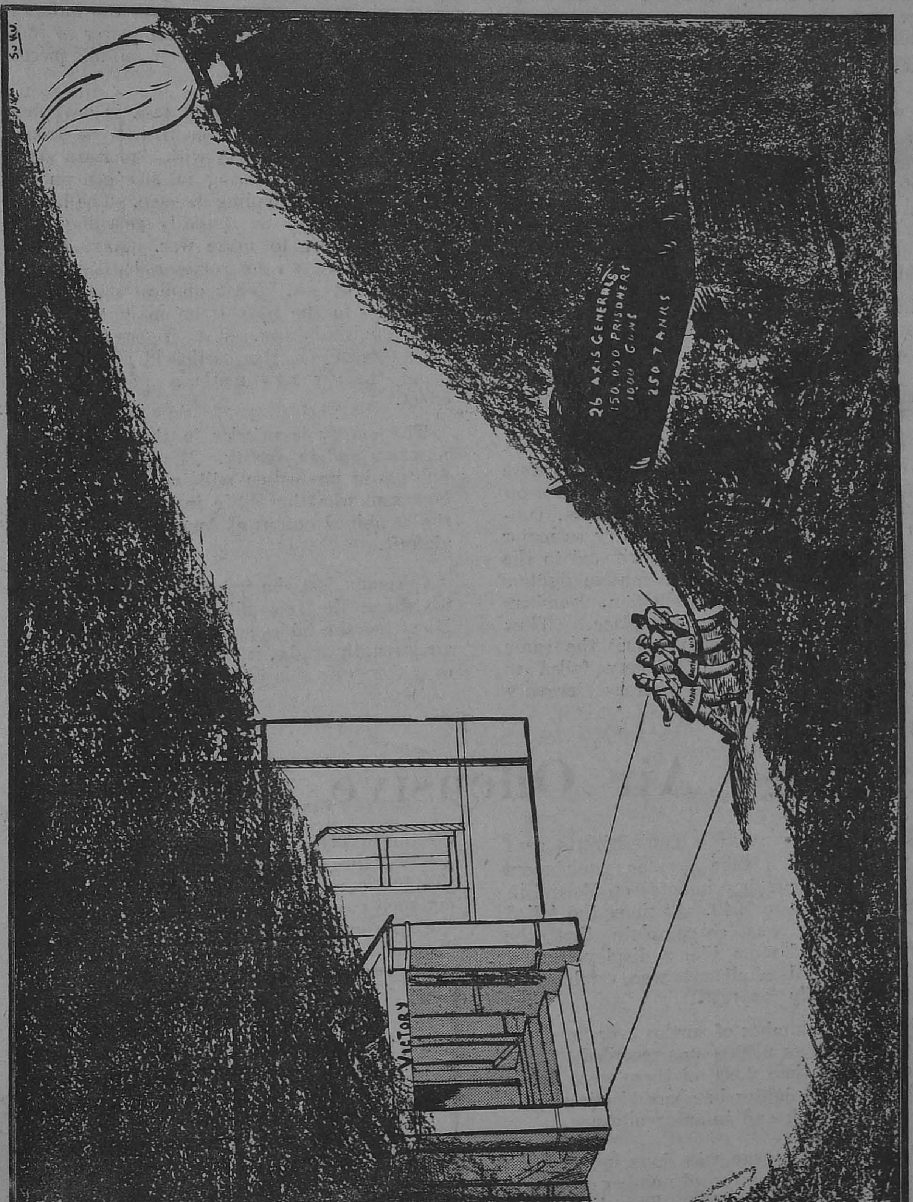
## FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB

Deaf and dumb people in Britain are now being taken into war work.

One group of them is working steadily in the shot-blasting sector of a Midlands factory producing shells. Here the din is so terrific that few of the ordinary workers can stand it. The deaf and dumb, unaware of the inferno of noise around them, placidly concentrate upon the finishing and polishing of the insides of shell cases.

The deaf and dumb are also found to be specially useful for war work demanding a keen sense of touch or sight, and in most cases their sight is exceptional.

—*Safety News.*


26 AXIS GENERALS
150,000 PRISONERS
1000 GUNS
250 TANKS
VICTORY

IN THE BAG

# Breaking open Fortress of Europe

CAN the Allied air supremacy break open the boasted Nazi "Fortress of Europe" now that the enemy is driven on the defensive and the mounting air mastery is one clear-cut advantage possessed against them?

The indications are that, given sufficient immediate emphasis, the Allied air power can be decisive this year.

Its function is to open and maintain an offensive beneath which the enemy's carefully laid defensive schemes will be broken and disorganized. It will strike the weapons out of his hands—smash fortifications and finally take its place above beaches and battlefields.

Undoubtedly the enemy is counting on a swing in military affairs from the ascendancy of attack in the shape of armoured force to an ascendancy of defence in the shape of the gun. Germany hopes for a stalemate on land while she concentrates on submarine warfare.

When the war began and her victims were unarmed, Germany placed all her reliance on swift offensive measures with panzers, support bombers and air-borne infantry as major weapons. Germany today is switched to the other extreme. Guns and defensive fighters are the chief weapons in production. Bombers are relegated to a secondary place. Thus we approach in a different spirit the same problem as that which Germany failed to solve in 1940 and 1941. Whereas Germany sought to succeed with an army to which the air was tied as an ancillary arm, we obviously propose to use our air supremacy as a major weapon. Our design is to break the military strength of the enemy with air power so that our surface forces may sweep up the pieces and finish the job.

The first most important task is snapping the enemy's strength on this home front. The Bomber Command with American daylight attacks is growing in strength in its power to inflict crippling damage. The bombing of Germany is steadily reducing the German power to make war. Next comes the ability of air to isolate a battlefield on land and at sea. That applies with special emphasis to the next stage in land fighting after Tunisia is won. With it goes the ability to intervene on the battlefield itself—using from the air new methods of remarkable effect.

The enemy is inferior in the air both in numbers and in quality. His change-over to fighters in production will increase his numbers somewhat but little in comparison with the combined output of American and British aircraft.

Germany lost the war in 1940 by a failure to realize the possibilities of air weapon. Now that the tables are turned, if we use our air strength aright, it can be a decisive factor over Germany this year.

—*Sunday Times*.

# Greatest Air Offensive in History

THE Germans in the Tunis-Bizerta area were made to take greater punishment from the sky than they inflicted on Poland in 1939 and France in 1940. At times the Allied air supremacy was so complete that the operation looked more like a display than a battle, for records of all sorts were established, writes the *Daily Express*.

The largest number of sorties ever flown in a day—more than 2,500—was recorded by our planes. More than 2,000 of these were flown by fighters and fighter bombers blasting their way for the tank and infantry advance.

Most of the damage was done by medium bombers which flew a record number of sorties in a day—more than 150. The blitz was concentrated on a small front, 4 miles long by 1,000 yards deep, held by the enemy infantry between Medjez El Bab and Tunis. In every minute for nine hours, four planes attacked the enemy positions. The bombers worked a shuttle service and the enemy troops were demoralised. This allowed the British armoured units to smash through to the plain leading to Tunis. No army has ever had such powerful backing as the Allied troops had in this battle. Never has the Luftwaffe handed out such punishment to the opposing armies as the Germans and Italians have taken in Tunisia.

### THAT'S HOW IT IS!

**The story printed below reached the BBC European section via a traveller from Spain. It is going the rounds on the Continent.**

**" A Spaniard at an Italian aerodrome noticed a troop carrier into which a parachutist climbed and after him twenty infantrymen. On enquiry the Spaniard was told it was a paratroop unit. 'But,' he exclaimed, 'only one parachutist and twenty men without parachutes!' 'Oh yes,' was the answer, 'the twenty infantrymen go to push the parachutist out.' "**

# Heroism of Three Royal Engineers

THE heroism of three Royal Engineers won for the Allied troops the use of two important bridges, east of Medjez, cables the *Daily Mirror* Tunisian correspondent.

As the enemy retreated over the bridges, which are close to one another, they blocked them with barricades and 200 lb. cases of high explosives, each of which was connected with a booby trap, so that if a case was lifted, it would cause a terrific explosion. The enemy put traps and explosive charges under the bridge too. Wires running from the Axis position were connected with charges so that they could be exploded by electricity.

The 21-year old Lieut. Donald Foster Anderson of London crawled 500 yards down the machine-gun swept road to one bridge under the cover of darkness, cut the wire and bypassed them so that the electric current flowed harmlessly but registered on the enemy instruments on the other side.

His batman, Sapper William Turp, 22-year old pre-war carpenter of Ilford, Essex, went with him, covering him with a tommy-gun. When the machine-gun and mortar fire got too hot for them, they crawled out.

Then a section of the sappers went in and began to remove the blocks of TNT. Unfortunately, when they had cleared all but a few cases, the booby trap caught them. The section leader was killed. The bridge was damaged—but the way was open.

If you have ever seen thousands of pounds of TNT blow up, you can assess Sergeant Bill Hayward's courage in going forward to clear the second bridge after he had seen what happened. There was a 2,000 lb. explosive on the centre of the bridge and scores of booby traps each of which was capable of blowing him and the bridge to smithereens.

But in he went and began removing the deadly obstruction. A machine-gun, firing tracers from his left flank, added to his worries. But for four hours, he carried on fumbling around for each case in the dark and for wires running to booby traps. He knew if he missed a wire it was "good-bye" for him.

Sergeant Jack Woodcock relieved him.

Dawn broke. He went on carrying cases after cases of TNT away. Enemy mortars opened up on him. In the intervals between the mortar strafing, Woodcock climbed back on the bridge and went on with the job.

# Generals "A Band of Brothers"

CLOSER co-operation in the war than the Allies have ever before attained "makes the pattern for the ultimate defeat of the Axis." In that sentence—President Roosevelt's message to General Eisenhower—an historic tribute is paid to the spirit and the skill of the commanders who won the African campaign.

General Eisenhower was the leader in combining the forces of the three nations and their several chiefs worked with him and with each other—to use Nelson's phrase—as a "band of brothers."

General Alexander's direction of the armies made most of the striking power which General Montgomery and General Anderson had developed and of the fiery strength of the French. Not less close and not less important than the co-operation of the armies was the co-operation of the air and sea arms with them.

The Allied air forces under Sir Arthur Tedder wrote a new chapter of history of war by their strokes against the enemy's bases and communications and by their support to the troops in the field on a scale and of an effect never known before.

Without the work of the navy, the operations could never have begun. Admiral Cunningham's indefatigable squadrons severely limited the strength of the Axis armies.

—*Daily Telegraph.*

## Cause and Effect

From one of MacArthur's boys comes the story of the mother kangaroo who, after scratching her tummy vigorously for several minutes, suddenly picked up her youngster and spanked him soundly for eating crackers in bed.

## BRITAIN AND GERMANY

**13th May.**—An enemy supply ship was attacked off the Norwegian coast. It was hit and left sinking.

The Royal Air Force made the heaviest bombing attack of the war on Duisburg. A German communiqué admitted heavy damage to Western Germany.

Long and continuous cheering greeted the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, when he announced in the Commons the end of the North African Campaign.

**14th May.**—It was reported that on May 12 riots broke out in Berlin outside the Wehrmacht's Information Office, when thousands of women and elderly men gathered to obtain information about their relatives in the Afrika Korps. The S.S. troops were called out. Similar riots broke out in other parts of Germany.

The Royal Air Force bombed Berlin. Targets in Central Ruhr and in Czechoslovakia were also attacked.

Two German torpedo boats were sunk off Holland.

**15th May.**—Lord Keyes, the former Chief of combined operations, Admiral of the Fleet, said: "I have a feeling, I cannot explain just why, that the war in Europe will be over soon."

The greatest Allied air *blitz* of the war hit Germany and occupied countries from the French Coast deep down in Bohemia. The United States air force attacked harbour installations at Emden.

**16th May.**—General von Arnim, Commander-in-Chief of the Axis forces in Tunisia, who surrendered to the Fourth Indian Division, was brought to England.

Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, in a message to mark the opening of Belgian radio station at Leopoldville, said: "We, in common with our Allies, will make every effort to deliver you as soon as possible from your oppressors. The day of your deliverance shall not be long delayed."

The memorandum of the Post-war Policy Group of the members of the Houses of Commons and Lords urged effective occupation of Germany and setting up of an inter-Allied council of control.

The Royal Air Force again raided Berlin. Axis shipping off the French coast, and targets in France, Belgium and Holland were also attacked. American planes raided the U-boat and ship-building yards at Kiel.

The *German News Agency* announced that Hitler had extended his plenary powers.

Britain observed "in a spirit of quiet cheerfulness" its day of thanksgiving for the Allied victory in Tunisia.

**17th May.**—Bombs were dropped in parts of London. Little damage was caused.

The Royal Air Force attacked and breached the two greatest dams in Germany—the Mohne and Eder dams, one containing 134 million tons and the other 202 million tons of water—flooding the Ruhr and Eder. The floods destroyed power stations, railway and road bridges.

Aircraft of the Bomber Command attacked targets in the Ruhr and Rhineland and Berlin. Mines were also laid in enemy waters.

Major-General Ralph Royce, Commanding General of the United States First Air Force, said that the Germans would soon be confined to their bomb shelters every hour of the day and night.

The Royal Air Force attacked an Axis convoy off the Dutch coast. Two merchant ships were torpedoed and three escort ships were set on fire.

Marshal Messe, Italian Commander-in-Chief in Africa, was brought to England.

**18th May.**—There was rioting in Duisburg after the bursting of the Ruhr dam. A state of siege was proclaimed in the whole of Westphalia.

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## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

**13th May.**—It was reported that Churchill and Roosevelt may plan a joint sea, land and air offensive against the Japanese as well as a blow against Europe.

The War Production Board announced that United States war expenditure reached a new height record of 7,290 million dollars in April.

It was stated that Russia was asking for increased quantities of food, industrial material and equipment under a new Protocol.

**14th May.**—President Roosevelt announced that Mr. William Phillips was to return to India.

Mr. Churchill, speaking at Washington, said that the time was approaching when the bulk of the armies in Great Britain, including Americans, "will have advanced across the seas into a deadly battle on the Continent."

It was stated authoritatively in London that there had been improving results in the attacks against U-boats in the Atlantic in the past six weeks.

**15th May.**—A measure authorizing the construction of one million tons of small naval craft for amphibious warfare was passed rapidly by the House of Representatives.

According to Reuter's Special Correspondent, the consensus of opinion in Washington was that Sicily and Sardinia would be attacked as a preliminary to knocking out Italy. A major blow might be delivered against Japan in the autumn and in the meantime the United States would continue to jockey for position in the Pacific.

**16th May.**—Mr. Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information, issued a warning that the Germans would not be allowed to get away with a compromise peace.

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## INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

**13th May.**—His Excellency the Viceroy concluded a four-day visit to operational areas and Royal Air Force bases in the Eastern Army.

The Royal Air Force bombed Rathedung, Yegyanbyin and two other Japanese-occupied villages on Akyab island. United States fighters attacked several Japanese installations in Northern Burma. An enemy troop concentration at Karvnan, six miles north of Sumprabum, was strafed.

His Excellency the Viceroy in a broadcast on the Tunisian victory, paid a rich tribute to the famous Fourth Indian Division which was in at the kill.

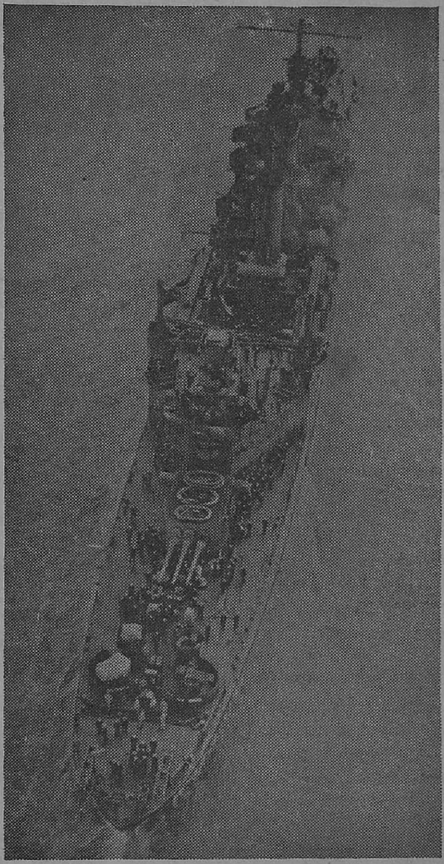
**14th May.**—Allied troops withdrew from Maungdau. The Royal Air Force attacked Japanese water transport. United States air force attacked railroad yards at Mandalay.

**15th May.**—United States bombers raided Martaban Point north of Moulmein. Railroad installations at Thazi Junction and in enemy aerodrome at Shwebo were also attacked. The Royal Air Force machine-gunned Japanese troops and water transport in Buthidaung area.

**16th May.**—American planes attacked the rail head at Lashio. Bombs were dropped on Sedan, Alon and Namkan. The Royal Air Force attacked the airfield at Kangaung in Central Burma. Enemy objectives at Myingyan were also attacked.

**17th May.**—The Royal Air Force attacked Narigan on Akyab island. Enemy objectives at Indainggyi and Prome were also attacked.

**18th May.**—Two small detachments of British troops carried out a successful raid at Maungdau. The Royal Air Force attacked Japanese radio installations near Akyab.



*VICTORIOUS U.S.S.* SAN FRANCISCO *COMES HOME.—The U.S. Navy cruiser* San Francisco *enters the U.S. West Coast Harbour of San Francisco. She is returning to the U.S. for repairs after taking part in a night action off Guadalcanar Island in the Solomons in which she helped sink a battleship and blasted a cruiser and a destroyer out of the water. The* San Francisco *steamed between two columns of Japanese ships, pouring accurate shellfire on the heavier enemy ships. The final score of the three-day battle showed a total of 28 Japanese vessels sunk.*

—U.S. Office of War Information Photo.

## ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

**13th May.**—According to Reuter's special correspondent, armed Axis resistance ended officially at 20-15 hours on Wednesday night (May 12th).

Von Arnim's last message to the Axis High Command was "The order to defend Tunisia to the last cartridge has been carried out." With him, 11 Axis Generals were captured. The Axis losses throughout the Libyan and Tunisian compaigns totalled 600,000. The German casualties totalled 250,000 against 354,000 Italians.

It was reported in British deplomatic circles that King Victor Emmanuel of Italy may abdicate in favour of Crown Prince Umberto.

Mr. H. L. Stimson, United States Secretary for War, said that Axis fortifications in Cape Bon disclosed a plan for progressive retreat and evacuation which the sudden Allied blow completely foiled . . . The Tunisian battle ranks with the Battle of Stalingrad as two great disasters to Germany in recent months.

**14th May.**—It was reported that Sgr. Mussolini had sent a demand to Hitler for anti-aircraft guns, artillery and planes to defend Italy. It was also reported that Marshal Badoglia had been recalled from retirement to defend the southern sector of Italy. It was also rumoured that a Military Council had been formed for the surrender of the nation.

Allied bombers raided Cagliari and Naples and shipping at Augusta harbour. It was revealed that 2,000 Axis planes were destroyed in the entire North African campaign, that Hitler lost three of his best Panzer formations and Mussolini every armoured division he ever had in the battle of Africa.

**15th May.**—According to a German press correspondent, Cyprus was crowded with American troops and that an attack on Crete from Cyprus was not out of question.

Flying Fortresses made a heavy attack on the important Italian port of Cirita-Veechia.

A French communiqué stated that the number of Axis prisoners disarmed and assembled by French troops in Central Tunisia reached 36,000.

It was revealed that since the outbreak of the war, the Allies (excluding Russia), had captured 19 German and 92 Italian Generals.

Reuter's special correspondent announced that the Mediterranean was open again to Allied shipping.

General Giraud deposed the Bey of Tunis for endangering the security of Tunisia.

**16th May.**—General Alexander reported to Mr. Churchill: **"Prime Minister, Sir, it is my duty to report that the Tunisian campaign is over. All enemy resistance has ceased. We are masters of the North African shore."**

The Tunisian battlefield was cleared. The Royal Air Force attacked Palermo and Trapani in Sicily.

General Eisenhower, in a message to His Excellency the Viceroy, said: "We are indeed proud to have had your gallant Indian troops fighting with us in Africa and we look forward to the next opportunity of beating our common enemy in whatever part of the world he may be found."

The Algiers radio announced that the investiture of the new Bey of Tunis, Sidi Alim Pasha took place in Tunis.

Lord Mottistone stated: "I have good reason for saying that the number of prisoners captured in the last great Tunisian battle will exceed 193,000, and 150,000 of these will be German."

**17th May.**—The Royal Air Force attacked the sea-plane base of Lido Di Roma. Two hangers were set on fire.

It was reported that refugees were streaming from southern Italy into Rome where over 300,000 had already arrived.

Two enemy ships were attacked off the coast of Greece and damaged.

Bordeaux was attacked by British and American planes.

Hitler was reported to have warned Mussolini that severest measures would be taken if Italian leaders attempted to "sell out" Italy to the Allies.

It was officially announced in London that the total wastage of Axis man-power in the Egypt, Libya and Tunisia fighting amounted to at least 600,000 men. The Italians lost three armies, six Army Corps, 25 divisions and six regiments. The German losses were two armies and 11 divisions.

**18th May.**—The Royal Air Force bombed the Sardinian airfield of Alghero. The Axis proclaimed the entire Riveria coast including Nice and Cannes to be a forbidden zone.

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## RUSSIA AND FINLAND

**13th May.**—Briansk, Orel and German bases in the Ukraine were heavily pounded. Russians north-west of Novorossisk widened the spearhead of their thrusts.

**14th May.**—A big clash in Russia was believed to be imminent. Soviet planes raided Warsaw.

The Soviet airforce attacked the Briansk railway station. The Russians advance on Novorossisk continued. The Germans abandoned Kiev.

**16th May.**—Red Army forces smashed their way across the Donetz and captured important positions near Lisichansk. A German attack in Kuban was repulsed.

**17th May.**—German rail communications on the Leningrad front were attacked by Soviet aircraft. Twelve German destroyers trying to attack Russian convoys in the Black Sea were driven off.

The Pravda reported: "We have completely taken possession of the new bridgehead on the right bank of the Donetz."

One Russian unit made several attacks on enemy positions in the Kuban.

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## SHIPPING

**15th May.**—Cruiser *Magdalan* sank in the Atlantic a German ship which was trying to run the blockade on April 16.

The British submarine *Splendid* was lost.

**17th May.**—Two more Axis vessels which tried to break through the blockade were scuttled. One was off Cape Finisterre, and the other between Greenland and Iceland.

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## NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

**15th May.**—Archbishop Spellman arrived in Turkey.

**16th May.**—Dr. W. Stampfli, Director of Public Economy and a member of the Swiss Federal Council, said that Switzerland must be more than ever prepared for any eventuality since war was again nearing her frontiers.

**17th May.**—The *New York Times* foreshadowed two great possibilities—the early collapse of Italy and the entry of Turkey into the war on the Allied side. "With Turkey actively on the Allied side," the paper wrote, "The Axis Balkan front would be ripped open for immediate attack."

The Turkish Ambassador in London returned to Ankara for consultation.

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## VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

**13th May.**—Addressing the United States Congress, Dr. Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, said: "After the final victory in this great war is achieved, the Czechoslovak nation will reconstruct rapidly and successfully by its untiring efforts its old home."

**15th May.**—Marshal Petain was reported to be ill.

It was announced that a Council of French resistance comprising delegates from every resistance organization and political party had been formed in France.

There was a pitched battle in the streets of Lyons.

Three more Dutchmen were executed in Holland bringing the total during the first day's of Martial Law to 48.

**16th May.**—German authorities issued a proclamation to the Belgians that since the beginning of the war, 310 "terrorist" and 522 "Communist officials" had been shot.

## THE FAR EAST

**13th May.**—United States light surface ships shelled Vala and Munda in the Solomons.

The Japanese crossed the Yangtze near Sungtze and below Tchang.

It was revealed that by the occupation of Amchitka island, the Americans were approaching closer to Tokyo.

**14th May.**—Strong United States forces landed on Japan's Aleutian island base of Attu in the North Pacific.

Mr. Churchill informed Marshal Chiang Kai-shek: "The day will come when we shall rejoice at the feats of arms of the United Nations which will surely drive the Japanese invader from the soil of China."

**15th May.**—Allied fighters scored a big victory over Japanese bombers during an attack on the airfields at Gasmata. After a furious five-day battle, American forces successfully held the bridgehead on the Attu island.

**16th May.**—About 20,000 Japanese troops attacked Chinese positions around Tsin Shih.

American Fighters shot down 13 Japanese planes (out of a force of 40) which raided Kunming.

Japanese planes attacked Bobduti and Wau villages in New Guinea. Flying Fortresses attacked Japanese installations at Kahili Large fires were started. Japanese shipping in the Buin area was again attacked.

**17th May.**—In a message to Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, President Roosevelt expressed the hope that in the very near future, Allied armies, in co-operation with the Chinese, would launch an offensive in Asia.

United States submarines sank six Japanese ships in the Pacific and Far East.

Allied raids caused large fires in Kendari, Celebes and Lae. Rabaul aerodrome was also bombed.

**18th May.**—A Japanese attempt to land paratroops to disturb the Chinese rear was foiled.

Admiral King, Commander-in-Chief of the United States navy, stated that the Japanese expansion had been checked.

United States Senator Wheeler predicted that the defeat of Germany would find both England and Russia busy in Europe. "In my judgment, the United States is going to be left to fight the Japanese."

A Japanese submarine sank without warning the Australian hospital ship *Centaur* 40 miles east of Brisbane on May 14. Two hundred and ninety-nine persons were lost.

## *Grow More Food—in Your Gardens!*

# BEANS AND PEAS

## Dhal or Pigeon-pea

*Cajanus inodorus (indicus)*; Fam., *Leguminosae*; *thuvarai*, Tam.; *kandipappu*, Tel.; *thovara parippu*, Mal.

*Description.*—A shrubby plant with narrow trifoliate leaves; flowers, small and yellowish or reddish in colour. The pods are small and contain about 3–7 seeds in each. There are different varieties, and the split dhal are of different sizes and colours. This is one of the most important pulse crops of India.

*Propagation.*—Seeds are planted in rows 4–5 feet apart. Unsplit seeds can be bought from the market, and good big ones used for planting.

*Cultivation.*—This plant is able to withstand drought well. It should be grown in loose soil, since the roots go very deep. The pods first appear in about 6–7 months. When the pods are dry, they must be picked, dried in the sun and beaten out, so that the seeds fall out. The seeds are then dried in the sun, and split and husked in hand operated splitting mills. The thick cotyledons thus prepared form the "dhal" or "parippu" of the market. The plants bear pods for some months; when the yield diminishes, the plants must be cut back and well manured, and they will produce a second crop.

*Uses.*—The split seeds or "dhal" is rich in proteins, and hence eaten in plenty, specially by vegetarians. Different kinds of curries, soups and sweets are prepared from dhal. The plants are grown as rotation crops, and also used as green manure, after the pods have been collected. The plants shed a large amount of leaves which enrich the soil in valuable organic matter. The husk of the pods and the seed-coats are used as feeding stuff for cattle.

*General analysis.*—Dry dhal. Water, 11·7 per cent; mineral, 2 per cent; protein, 21·0 per cent; fat, 0·1 per cent; fibre, 0·7 per cent; carbohydrate, 64·5 per cent; calories per 100 gms., 1755; calcium, 0·09 per cent; magnesium, 0·107 per cent; phosphorus, 0·48 per cent; iron, 0·002 per cent; traces of Vitamins, A and B.

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